

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

Filed: December 22, 2021

ROBERT VINER,

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No. 20-357V

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Special Master Sanders

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Petitioner,

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v.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

*

Dismissal; Insufficient Proof;

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Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (“Tdap”)

*

Vaccine; Rheumatoid Arthritis (“RA”)

*

Respondent.

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Amy A. Senerth, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.

Meghan Murphy, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DISMISSAL¹

On March 27, 2020, Robert Viner (“Petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program² (“Vaccine Program” or “Program”). 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34 (2012). Petitioner alleged that he suffered from rheumatoid arthritis (“RA”) following receipt of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (“Tdap”) vaccine on September 18, 2018. Pet. at 1, ECF No. 1. The information in the record, however, does not show entitlement to an award under the Program.

On December 19, 2021, Petitioner filed a motion for a decision dismissing his petition. ECF No. 30. In his motion, Petitioner stated that he “is unable to retain an expert in order to support causation-in-fact, and will therefore be unable to prove that he is entitled to compensation in the Vaccine Program.” *Id.* ¶ 2. He continued, “[i]n these circumstances, to proceed further would be

¹ This Decision shall be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the Internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information that satisfies the criteria in § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted Decision. If, upon review, the I agree that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, such material will be deleted from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755 (“the Vaccine Act” or “Act”). Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

unreasonable, and would waste the resources of this Court, Respondent, and the Vaccine Program.” *Id.* ¶ 3.

To receive compensation under the Program, Petitioner must prove either (1) that Petitioner suffered a “Table Injury”—i.e., an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table—corresponding to the vaccination, or (2) that he suffered an injury that was actually caused by a vaccine. *See* §§ 13(a)(1)(A), 11(c)(1). An examination of the record did not uncover any evidence that Petitioner suffered a “Table Injury.” Further, the record does not contain persuasive evidence that Petitioner’s alleged injuries were caused by the Tdap vaccine.

Under the Act, petitioners may not be given a Program award based solely on their claims alone. Rather, the petition must be supported by medical records or the opinion of a competent physician. § 13(a)(1). In this case, the medical records are insufficient to prove Petitioner’s claim, and at this time, Petitioner has not filed a supportive opinion from an expert witness. Therefore, this case must be **dismissed for insufficient proof. The Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.**³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Herbrina D. Sanders
Herbrina D. Sanders
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties’ joint filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review.